

# Edinburgh - Scotland's Cosmopolitan Capital

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Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom  
Tuesday, May 24, 2016

*Aragorn: Gentlemen, we do not stop 'til nightfall.*

*Pippin: What about breakfast?*

*Aragorn: You've already had it.*

*Pippin: We've had one, yes. What about second breakfast?*

*[Aragorn turns and walks away]*

*Merry: I don't think he knows about second breakfast, Pip.*

*Pippin: What about elevenses? Luncheon? Afternoon tea? Dinner? Supper? He knows about them, doesn't he?*

*Merry: I wouldn't count on it.*

### Friday 20th May, 2016

The typical Scottish weather continues with grey skies and bouts of rain as we breakfast by Loch Fyne - kippers for Brad, smoked salmon and scrambled eggs for Anna. Got to keep the strength up. We had to drive pretty much all the way back to Stirling as we had come a few days before - breaking the cardinal McArthur rule - never go home the same way you came. We were able to get over this slight indiscretion after Stirling, heading to the northern shore of the Forth River where we had lunch at Torryburn, which is about where the Firth of Forth really starts to get quite wide. The reason we headed to the north shore rather than the shorter southern route was to see the the Firth of Forth rail bridge, the second longest single cantilever bridge in the world.

All was going well until it was time to return our hire car to the Europcar office at Waverley Railway Station in the heart of Edinburgh. Who's idea was it to do this on Friday afternoon in the centre of town with no idea of where the drop off point was? Just let it be said, things got a little tense for a little while but in the spirit of that horrible TV show, "The Great Race", we pulled ourselves together, pooled our resources and got the job done - just in time to avoid another day's hire costs!

We arrived late afternoon at our accommodation - a bed-sit apartment in New Town. After the obligatory roam around town, we ate in.

### Saturday 21st of May, 2016

Edinburgh is beautiful. New Town (which is quite old by Australian standards) is well set out with large stone buildings on a slope that leads up to the main street and gardens at Princes Street. Beyond that is Old Town (which is old by any standards) with the Royal Mile that leads futher up the hill which is crowned with Edinburgh Castle. We did a tour of the Castle, once again hosted by a passionate local - and his name was "Jimmy" of course. We then spent a few hours exploring the castle for ourselves before retiring for a little tea, scones and jam and cream in High Street. We walked home via the Queens Gardens and ate in again. Still getting used to the sun not setting until about 9:45 pm and it's not even high summer yet. 14 degrees with rainy periods.

### Sunday 22nd of May, 2016

We woke up with the birds (the sun rises about 5 am) and had a leisurely breakfast in our apartment before walking to Leith Water (a river) to check out a Sunday Market. It wasn't quite ready yet so we walked through Dean Gardens, and found the quaint Dean Village, which used to be the bread millers base for Edinburgh. Brad later headed off to walk up Arthur's Seat - a 250 metre peak right next to the city centre. Half of Edinburgh seemed to be doing the same thing - the other half were in Old Town. The view from the top was worth the climb. Anna explored the shopping areas before a pre-arranged rendezvous at the Scot Monument before - you guessed it - some afternoon tea and people watching. Real Scottish weather day - rain, sunshine, wind. About 15 degrees.

### Monday 23rd of May, 2016

Time to return to the land of Sassanacks down south. We packed our bags and trundled up the hill to the railway station. We caught the train to London. It was fast. According to my phone's GPS, we got up to 205 km/h, and hovered between 175 and 197 km/h for most of the journey. It is amazing what infrastructure can be achieved when the population density is high enough. Before we knew it, we were at King Cross. We navigated the tube like old hands to find ourselves in Fulham to meet Craig to start the next phase of our adventure - to the continent!

## Comments

*Wow How old is Edinburgh Castle?? The Dean village looks pretty...I'm glad you didn't get divorced over directions...that's what Des and I do when we're lost...lol. Steph and Charles are coming over for dinner tonight so we'll get more goss from them . Travel safe xx*

— From Des, on May 25, 2016 at 05:06AM

Comfortable seats on that train I hope Anna? My Dad used to play around the Firth of Forth bridge when he was a kid. Isn't history wonderful. xx

— From Jennie, on May 25, 2016 at 05:10AM

I was in Edinburgh in 1986 with the Commonwealth Games. As I road up Princes Street in the double decker bus an American couple behind me commented:

"O my God, who on earth would build a castle next to a railway station"

I KID YOU NOT!!!

— From misterphilby, on May 25, 2016 at 07:11AM

That would be rode!

— From misterphilby, on May 25, 2016 at 07:12AM

## Pictures & Video

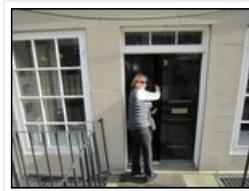
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Scott Monument  
Edinburgh



Our accommodation, New  
Town.



Home, sweet home.



Scottish soldiers.



Edinburgh Castle



Edinburgh Castle



Dean Park



Dean Village



View from Arthur's Seat



On the train to London  
Comments!



Scott Monument Edinburgh

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Our accommodation, New Town.

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Home, sweet home.

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Scottish soldiers.

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Edinburgh Castle

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Edinburgh Castle

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Dean Park

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Dean Village

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View from Arthur's Seat

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On the train to London

Comments:

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*Love seeing the gorgeous photos of you both and really enjoying the travel diary thank you.*

— From Anne H, on May 26, 2016 at 05:55AM

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